United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1014
8 November 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General says it is "neither just nor practical" to continue humanitarian assistance to Iraq -- a country "capable of feeding its people and seeing that their needs are met".

- Secretary-General is "extremely concerned" at intensification of armed action in El Salvador.

- Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Yugoslavia meets with Italian President and other Government officials.

- Secretary-General stresses importance of International Court in statement in General Assembly.

- International Atomic Energy Agency to begin monitoring South African nuclear safeguards.

- Special Political Committee approves draft on outer space.

- Meeting of Anti-Apartheid Committee ends with adoption of two-track policy calling for both pressure and assistance.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has stated that in the light of the number of humanitarian crises demanding the urgent attention of the international community and the limited resources available to meet them, it is "neither just nor practical" to continue to request funding for humanitarian assistance to Iraq -- a country, which, he says, "was and is capable of feeding its people and seeing that their needs are met".

The statement is contained in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly of 4 November, on humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons, in which he also says that the Iraqi Government has yet to indicate its willingness to proceed with the sale of oil as authorized by

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the Security Council. By its resolution of 15 August, the Council gave Iraq permission to sell $1.6 billion worth of oil, roughly two-thirds of which would go towards meeting humanitarian aid requirements within the country.

The Secretary-General notes in the report that the agreement on the provision of humanitarian assistance signed between the United Nations and Iraq following the Gulf war is due for renegotiation in mid-December. Earlier this week, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said he had asked his Executive Delegate, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, to go to Iraq to make new assessments of the humanitarian situation in that country.

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A United Nations spokesman said today in a statement that the Secretary-General was "extremely concerned" at the intensification of armed action in El Salvador at a time when negotiations had entered a decisive phase "which should at last lead to a cease-fire". The situation was particularly difficult to reconcile with the repeatedly expressed desire of both parties to reach a cease-fire by Christmas.

According to the statement, the Secretary-General continued to believe that the reference point for cease-fire arrangements should be the situation existing on the ground on 4 April 1990, date of the signature of the Geneva Agreement. The United Nations had made this suggestion during negotiations last April, and it had been well received by both parties.

Therefore, the statement said, the current fighting would have no bearing on arrangements on the ground at cease-fire time. The combat, in the circumstances, was futile, and could only lead to more victims and destruction at a time when peace was clearly in sight.

The Secretary-General was convinced that a winding down of the war, which should emerge from mutual restraint, would greatly contribute to a favourable atmosphere for the negotiation, and broaden the growing consensus in El Salvador for a negotiated political solution, the spokesman said.

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A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today that the Secretary-General had received reports from his Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, on his mission in Europe. Mr. Vance had arrived in Rome yesterday from Vienna, and met today with the Italian President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. He had also met with the Secretary of State of the Holy See and was now en route to Paris to meet this evening with the French Foreign Minister.

Tomorrow, Mr. Vance would meet with the French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs and other Government officials. He was expected to return to New York over the weekend to report to the Secretary-General.

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The General Assembly today took up the annual report of the International Court of Justice, as well as the Secretary -General's report on the work of the Organization.

In a statement delivered this morning on the International Court, the Secretary-General made observations on the interplay of the six principal organs of the United Nations in the of peaceful settlements of international disputes and reviewed measures which, he said, "might lead to the strengthening of the complementarity" of their respective roles.

The Secretary-General proposed that in circumstances requiring a discreet procedure, as may be the case in instances when the Secretary-General is called upon to exercise "good offices as a mediator in a dispute", the Assembly could consider the possibility of authorizing the Secretary-General, with the consent of the parties to the dispute, to seek an Advisory Opinion from the Court.

The Assembly also discussed the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization in which he states that the challenges of recent years have answered two fundamental questions about the United Nations: "One, whether it could muster the power to repair breaches of the peace and reverse acts of aggression; two, whether the Secretariat would be able to execute the increasingly versatile projects of peace". He also observes that the effectiveness of the United Nations could no longer be in doubt.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is currently reviewing the initial report by South Africa submitted in line with the Safeguards Agreement, which the Government of that country signed with the IAEA in Vienna on 16 September.

Under the Agreement, South Africa is required to submit an initial report to the IAEA listing all the nuclear material and nuclear activities within the country. Following that review, the Agency will begin inspections to verify the initial report. At the same time, the necessary negotiations with South Africa will be carried out in order to put in place the detailed subsidiary arrangements that are required by the Safeguards Agreement. Two negotiation teams will visit South Africa for this purpose by the end of the year, one dealing with conventional nuclear facilities and the other with enrichment facilities.

South Africa signed the Safeguards Agreement following its accession on 10 July to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

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The General Assembly would urgently recommend that all countries be given the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space, by the terms of a draft resolution approved this morning in the Special Political Committee.

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By the draft, which was approved without a vote, the Assembly would call for the continuation of national research on the problem of collisions with space debris and urge support for United Nations activities in connection with International Space Year 1992. It would also call for relevant activities in connection with the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid concluded on Wednesday in Geneva a two-day meeting of consultations with representatives of non-governmental organizations and anti-apartheid movements.

Attended by representatives of 46 national and international organizations, representatives of United Nations agencies and other individuals, the meeting extensively discussed recent developments in South Africa and made decisions on present and future activities and the role of anti-apartheid movements in that country.

At the end of the deliberations, the participants adopted a statement of action which, among other things, welcomed the convening of the Conference of the Patriotic/United Front. The statement expressed support for the immediate holding of an All-Party Conference under the auspices of a neutral convener to decide on constitutional principles.

Participants also adopted a two-track policy, calling for both pressure and assistance. Regarding pressure, they called for the maintenance of economic sanctions in order to secure the establishment of an interim Government/Transitional Authority. Regarding assistance, the participants called for support to the national liberation movements, for the returning political exiles and the release of political prisoners.

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CORRECTION: In Press Release DH/1004 of (25 October 1991), the following sentence should be added to the third paragraph on Page 2: "The concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as proposed by Israel these last 11 years is based on direct negotiations and includes mutually reassuring arrangements."

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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11 November 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

♦ Secretary-General says it is still too early to say whether European peace efforts in Yugoslavia "have failed", more time is needed to assess situation.

♦ Secretary-General says that United Nations will only be able to undertake tasks outlined in Cambodian settlement agreements if human and financial resources are provided in "timely and assured manner".

♦ Political and Security Committee approves drafts on disarmament questions; hears statement by Representative of Republic of Korea urging strict compliance with Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear-Weapons.

♦ Criteria for refugee status and abuses by economically motivated immigrants is among questions discussed in Social Committee.

♦ World Health Organization says 3/4 of HIV infections are transmitted heterosexually in developing world and their number is rising as cause of infection in industrialized nations.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said this morning that it was up to the European members of the Security Council to request a meeting of the Council on the situation in Yugoslavia. So far, he said, he had not heard of any request from the four European members of the Council -- the United Kingdom, France, Austria and Belgium.

The Secretary-General made the comment in reply to questions by correspondents whether it was time for an emergency meeting of the Council to discuss the situation in Yugoslavia.

In another reply, the Secretary-General said it was still too early to say whether the European peace efforts had failed. More time was needed to assess the situation, he said. He was receiving a report this afternoon from his Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, who had just returned to New York from his mission to Yugoslavia.

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In a related development, the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Belgium, France and the United Kingdom have transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter, the Declaration on Yugoslavia, adopted by the 12 Member States of the European Economic Community (EEC) at their ministerial meeting held in Rome on 8 November.

In the declaration, the EEC Member States asked the United Nations Security Council to reach agreement on additional measures to enhance the effectiveness of the arms embargo which the Council has adopted. They also invited the Council to take the necessary steps towards imposing an oil embargo.

According to the declaration, the European Community had decided, in the light of the seriousness of the situation, to take a number of measures, including the immediate termination of its trade and cooperation Agreement with Yugoslavia. Additional economical and political measures were being considered for implementation when and wherever necessary, it said.

In other news, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has informed the United Nations that it has supervised an exchange of prisoners in Bosnia-Herzegovina over the weekend, involving over 700 detainees.

The Committee said the release followed the signing on 6 November of a general agreement between the Yugoslav army and the Croatian authorities entrusting the ICRC with the role of neutral intermediary and authorizing it to conduct protection activities for the prisoners. The ICRC said this latest operation reflected the expansion of its programme in Yugoslavia where 40 ICRC delegates were now working throughout the territory.

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The Secretary-General has stated that the signing of the Paris Peace Accords for a Comprehensive Settlement of the Cambodian Conflict on 23 October has created "an historic opportunity for genuine national reconciliation, the holding of free and fair elections and the establishment of a durable peace in Cambodia". The success of the proposed United Nations Transition Authority (UNTAC), however, he said, will depend on the strict and faithful compliance by all parties with the terms of the Agreements and their full cooperation throughout the transitional period.

In a report on Cambodia to the General Assembly of 7 November, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said it was gratifying that the international community and the Cambodians had decided to entrust the United Nations wide-ranging responsibilities with the implementation of the settlement agreements. He pointed out that substantial human and financial resources would be required for the Organization to undertake the tasks foreseen in the accords and suggested that innovative procedures may have to be devised to meet such tasks, in a "timely and assured manner."

The Secretary-General has appointed Ataul Karim of Bangladesh as Chief Liaison Officer of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).

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The Advance Mission is expected to be fully deployed by mid-November and will be absorbed into UNTAC in approximately six months.

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Drafts urging the General Assembly to reaffirm its conviction that a general agreement on prohibition or restricted use of specific conventional weapons would significantly reduce the suffering of civilian populations and combatants were approved by the Assembly's Political and Security Committee on Friday.

The Committee approved a total of ten draft resolutions, among which eight would have the Assembly would urge States to comply with the spirit and the provisions of all arms limitation and disarmament agreements. In particular, the Assembly would welcome the role that the United Nations played "in restoring the integrity of certain arms limitation and disarmament agreements and in the removal of threats to peace".

Among those addressing the Committee, the representative of the Republic of Korea, Lee Ryang, regretted that "a certain country suspected of possessing nuclear weapons capability" had not concluded the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguard agreements under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). He called for strict observance of the provisions of the NPT regime by the parties concerned.

In a related development, the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the Republic of Korea, Chang Hee Roe, has transmitted to the United Nations the text of the Declaration of Non-nuclear Korean Peninsula Peace Initiative made by his country's President, Roh Tae Woo.

The President said in the declaration that at a time when reduction and destruction of nuclear weapons are being carried out world-wide, "North Korea shows no sign of giving up its efforts to build nuclear weapons, while reneging on its professed duties as a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". There could be no reason or justification for North Korea to develop nuclear weapons or evade international inspection of its nuclear facilities, he said. He called on the North Korean authorities to immediately take steps corresponding to his declaration.

The Declaration was transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 8 November.

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The General Assembly's Social Committee today heard divergent views on what constitutes a refugee and how to tackle the problems of long-standing, as well as emergency refugee situations.

Canada said measures must be implemented to provide for refugees' needs, but those measures must not be abused by economically motivated refugees,

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whose numbers were growing, especially in the developed world. Albania said citizens leaving that country could not be considered political refugees but simply economic immigrants, and their problems should be addressed only in that framework.

The need to support development, democracy and peace to prevent refugee flows was stressed by Chile. China stated that a case-by-case approach to the displaced persons' problems must be employed with due respect for the principle of State sovereignty and the consent of the Governments concerned.

Recent diplomatic efforts to resolve the crises in Afghanistan and Cambodia were praised by speakers who expressed hope that the resolution of conflicts in those regions would lead to permanent repatriation of millions of people. The representative of Zimbabwe said that alternative solutions must be found to the refugee situation in the Horn of Africa since the political situation in most countries in that area had not been stabilized and thus voluntary repatriation was not possible.

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The World Health Organization (WHO) says in a study issued today that heterosexual intercourse has become the dominant form of HIV transmission in much of the developing world, and is rising as a cause of infection in industrialized nations, including the United States.

The study shows that three-quarters of the 8 to 10 million adults with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) have been infected through heterosexual transmission. It says that in the United States, while the HIV first spread primarily among homosexual or bisexual men and injecting drug users, over the past decade it has been increasingly transmitted through heterosexual intercourse.

In a press release issued at Headquarters, the Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, Michael H. Merson, said that the revelation by the American Basketball player, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, that he has been infected by HIV "drives home a basic truth about the AIDS pandemic". Mr. Johnson was telling the sexually active people, the WHO Director said, that whatever their sexual preference, they simply could not afford to consider themselves invulnerable.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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12 November 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses concern over situation of 420,000 refugees and displaced persons in Yugoslavia.

- Secretary-General warns that failure to mobilize adequate development resources could set back emerging spirit of democracy and enterprise.

- International Committee of the Red Cross urges parties in Yugoslav conflict to designate high-level representatives for meeting in Geneva on humanitarian problems affecting that country.

- Administrative and Budgetary Committee told of "inequities" and "distortions" in current scale of assessments in debate on system of financing regular United Nations budget; approves budget appropriations for three humanitarian agencies and public information activities.

- Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization warns of "extremely risky situation" in Eastern Europe; sees agriculture in developing countries in "immense distress".

- Political and Security Committee approves a number of drafts on nuclear disarmament -- one calls for nuclear-weapons-free zone in South Asia.

- Convention on Rights of Child receives 100th ratification.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today that he was concerned about the situation of an estimated 420,000 refugees and displaced persons in Yugoslavia. He said he was expecting to get information soon from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mrs. Sadako Ogata, who, he said, is following the situation closely in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

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For information media—not an official record

Asked by correspondents this morning whether anything new had come out of his meeting yesterday with his Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyprus Vance, who has just returned from a mission to Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General said they had assessed the situation in that country. He said that after the Rome Declaration of 8 November, in which the 12 Member States of the European Community called on the Security Council to impose an oil embargo on Yugoslavia and to make the arms embargo more effective, it was now up to the Europeans to decide what their next step would be.

Asked about a letter from a Serbian official requesting United Nations peace-keepers in the area, the Secretary-General said the validity of the letter had been questioned. The letter was addressed to the Security Council President and it was his decision whether the letter should be considered as having official validity.

The Secretary-General also commented on the upcoming election of the new Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Asked if time was running out for a "smooth transition" between the present and the upcoming administrations, the Secretary-General, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar,replied that he was pleased that Security Council Members had made progress in their deliberations yesterday and that he hoped they would continue today. He needed time to show his successor all the problems that were still pending -- "and there are quite a lot", the Secretary-General said.

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The Secretary-General has warned that failure to mobilize development resources could set back for decades the emerging spirit of democracy, cooperation and enterprise.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was addressing the General Assembly's Second Committee (Economical and Financial) yesterday on his proposal to convene an international conference on development financing.

He stated that he feared that in the absence of adequate resources to finance an enlarged global investment agenda, growth might by stifled, development might become more difficult if not impossible, and "a relapse into authoritarian forms of Government" might result.

He said there were two fundamental requirements for the success of efforts presently being carried out by developing countries and those trying to integrate into the world economy: increased trade and access to adequate financing. Economic reform in developing countries and in the economies in transition would only lead to sustained growth if public and private investment grew significantly above present levels. An effective and sustainable solution to the debt problem of indebted nations was also imperative, he said.

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During its meeting yesterday, the Committee also heard the introduction of three draft resolutions on special economic assistance to Lebanon, Chad and Central America, respectively.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has requested a high-level meeting of the parties engaged in the Yugoslav conflict to work out "speedy, practical and viable solutions to the grave humanitarian problems affecting the country".

The Committee said in a press release issued today that the new initiative was prompted by the constant and rapid deterioration of the situation in Yugoslavia. The situation of civilian populations had deteriorated sharply in the last few hours, the Committee said, particularly in Dubrovnik, with casualty figures mounting as fighting and shelling was continuing unabated. ICRC delegates on the spot had reported that it was impossible for local first-aiders to evacuate the wounded and bring help to civilians, as required by the most basic rules of humanitarian law.

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The formula for assessing Members' contributions to the United Nations budget was evolving in a way that seemed to bear no relationship to each Member State's capacity to pay, and a growing financial burden was being placed on developing countries, the representative of Mexico, Jorge Montaño, told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), yesterday. Other delegates said the methodology used to arrive at the scale was too complicated and included distorting elements.

The Representative of Japan, Katsumi Sezaki, said his Government had received criticism at home over the widening gap between the increasingly heavy financial responsibility Japan had to bear and its decision-making power, position and representation within the Organization. Also, the total financial burden of the five permanent members of the Security Council had decreased, he said, while their decision-making power seemed to have increased.

Also yesterday, the Committee approved resources totalling over $168 million for three humanitarian agencies and public information activities, as it continued its section-by-section reading of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

Taken separately, the funds amounted to some $42 million for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), over $20 million for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), almost $8 million for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) and almost $100 million for the Department of Public Information (DPI).

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Calling the situation in Eastern Europe "extremely risky", the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Edouard Saouma, has warned that "major injections of capital and technology" are needed to avert the collapse of agriculture throughout the region.

In a keynote statement to the FAO Governing Conference, which opened over the weekend in Rome, Mr. Saouma said that, as the world economy became increasingly interdependent, agriculture in developing countries faced "immense distress". The FAO had estimated that overall food and agriculture production would fall by 0.3 per cent below the 1990 level for the first global decline since 1983, and it predicted a 9 per cent drop in Soviet crops and livestock.

During the three weeks of deliberations, Ministers of Agriculture and senior officials from 157 member nations of the FAO will review the state of food and agriculture in the world, including the situation in Eastern Europe.

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The General Assembly's First Committee (Political and Security) yesterday voted on four draft resolutions on nuclear disarmament, as well as a draft on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. The Committee also approved, without a vote, draft resolutions on a proposed chemical weapons convention.

Among those addressing the Committee, the representative of India, Prakash Shah, said his country had always maintained that nuclear disarmament was a global issue and not a regional one, and solutions could not be partial, but global. Further, he said, the success of any regional disarmament effort depended on prior consultations with concerned States of the region. The text served no disarmament purpose and he would vote against the draft, he said.

Among other drafts approved by the Committee, one, adopted by a vote of 127 in favour to 2 against (France, United States), and four abstentions (China, Israel, Marshall Islands, United Kingdom), would have the Assembly urge the early discontinuance of all nuclear-test explosions "for all time" and reaffirm the necessity of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty. Other texts approved concerned a comprehensive nuclear arms freeze and an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

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The Convention on the Rights of the Child received its 100th ratification on October 21, according to a joint statement issued today by Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, and James P. Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, the Convention was also signed by a further 41 countries, which were in the process of considering ratification, thereby making its standards part of their national

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legislation. "Such rapid response from Governments is unprecedented in the history of human rights law", the two United Nations Officials noted. The statement went to say that the rapidly growing momentum created by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Summit for Children was an encouraging sign that the world was now ready to act vigorously to make a difference for children.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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13 November 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council hears report by Secretary General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, on his latest mission to that country; draft in the Security Council considered.

- Secretary-General is "profoundly disturbed" by events in East Timor and deplores loss of innocent lives; ICRC expresses dismay at "extreme violence" employed by Indonesian security forces during a memorial service.

- General Assembly affirms confidence in International Atomic Energy Agency; appreciates Agency's statements and actions on Iraq's non-compliance with non-proliferation obligations; postpones until next Assembly session question of economic embargo against Cuba.

- Pledges totalling $177 million announced for 1992 programmes of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

- Text on recent disasters in Philippines introduced in Economic and Financial Committee along with proposals on trade and development.

- Political and Security Committee approves texts supporting establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zone in Middle East and zone of peace in Indian Ocean.

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The Security Council this afternoon heard a report by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, on his latest mission to that country.

Mr Vance, who has just returned from meetings with senior European Government officials, presented a progress report underlining the seriousness of the situation and reviewing the efforts made by the European Community and United Nations agencies in the humanitarian area.

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Following the presentation, British Ambassador Sir David Hannay told correspondents that European Community members of the Council were now desirous of moving forward to bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict and would begin to prepare a draft resolution on the subject.

He said their first effort would be to get the parties back to the conference table and, as a "necessary preliminary ", getting them to stop fighting. The three other main areas of these efforts, he said, were to reinforce the efforts of the Secretary-General and United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR and others in the humanitarian field ; to strengthen the arms embargo, as Mr. Vance's earlier report had recommended by setting up some control mechanisms, including the imposition of an oil embargo; and to explore the "newly indicated willingness of the parties in Yugoslavia to envisage some kind of international involvement in keeping the peace". Those four areas will now be included in a draft resolution on the subject which is being prepared by the European members of the Council.

Ambassador Hannay further stated that both Mr. Vance and the Secretary General had made it clear that in order to deploy a peace-keeping effort in Yugoslavia, a number of preconditions which had been agreed to by the European Community, would have to be fulfilled. These included an effective and lasting cease-fire, separation of forces and consent of all parties. In order to have "peace-keepers, you have to have a peace to keep", Ambassador Hannay said.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today through his Spokesman that he profoundly regretted the events in East Timor and deplored the loss of innocent lives. He expressed hope that effective measures would be taken in order to avoid any recurrence in the future.

The Spokesman told correspondents that the Secretary-General had seen official reports of events yesterday in East Timor where two American journalists had been assaulted by the Indonesian military.

He said that the Special Rapporteur on Torture of the Commission of Human Rights was visiting East Timor during the events. The Secretariat was now trying to get in touch with the Rapporteur, who was due to arrive in Jakarta today, to obtain first-hand information on the events for the Secretary-General.

This afternoon, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it was "dismayed at the extreme violence" employed by Indonesian security forces during a memorial service in Dili, the capital of East Timor yesterday, 12 November.

In a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters today, the ICRC said the actions of the security forces had resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries among the civilians gathered in the cemetery. Some thirty people sought refuge in the ICRC delegation as ICRC delegates have the

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permission of the authorities to move about freely in Dili. They were subsequently returned to their homes.

The ICRC has informed the United Nations that it has requested "immediate access to all persons detained in connection with the recent events".

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The General Assembly this morning reaffirmed its confidence in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and noted with appreciation its statements and actions concerning Iraq's non-compliance with its non-proliferation obligations.

The Assembly took that action by adopting a resolution on IAEA'S annual report, by which it commended the IAEA Director-General and his staff for their diligent efforts in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991), which called on IAEA to inspect and render harmless Iraq's nuclear weapon capabilities.

Prior to the vote, Iraq introduced an amendment to the draft resolution which would have had the Assembly express deep concern at Israel's non-compliance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981). However, under a proposal made by Argentina, the Assembly decided to take no action on the amendment.

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The 1992 programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been pledged almost $177 million. The pledges were announced at a meeting yesterday of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNHCR.

In an opening statement, the President of the General Assembly, Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, said the world was witnessing large refugee exodus situations and, as a result, the services of UNHCR were in unprecedented demand. He called for greater burden-sharing to help alleviate the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced persons in the world.

The Director of the Agency's New York office, Albert A. Peters, said the unprecedented increase in UNHCR's needs this year had been matched by an unprecedented response from the international community. The 1992 budget of a projected $599 million, however, represented a considerable reduction compared to the total budget for 1991. Mr. Peters called for sustained support to ensure the timely implementation of UNHCR's 1992 programmes.

Japan, New Zealand and the European Economic Community (EEC) said that their contributions would be announced at a later date. The remainder of the United States' contribution would also be announced at a later date.

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The General Assembly would express support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and for a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean under two draft resolutions approved yesterday by the Assembly's First Committee during its continuing action on disarmament drafts on disarmament issues.

Introduced by Egypt, the text on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East also calls on regional States to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. It was approved by the Committee without a vote.

In his statement, the representative of Egypt, Nabil Elaraby, said such a zone would contribute greatly to the peace and stability of the region. It would contribute to the just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, without which security in the Middle East would always be at risk, he said.

By another draft, which was approved by a recorded vote of 102 in favour to 4 against (Japan, France, United Kingdom, United States), with 28 abstentions, the Assembly would reaffirm its support for the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and reiterate its decision to convene the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Committee also approved a draft resolution on preventing an arms race in outer space, which would have the Conference on Disarmament re-establish an Ad Hoc Committee to continue negotiations. The draft was approved by a recorded vote of 135 in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (United States).

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A 45-Power draft resolution by which the General Assembly would note with concern the great loss of life and property caused by recent disasters in the Philippines, including an earthquake, volcanic eruption, typhoons, floods and a massive mud-flow, and request the Secretary-General to assist further the rehabilitation efforts of that country, was introduced this morning in the Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

The Committee also heard the introduction of four other draft resolutions and concluded its debate on trade and development, the implementation of the Programme for Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDC's) in the 1990's and science and technology for development.

According to the draft on emergency aid to the Philippines, States and international organizations would also be requested to further extend support to the Philippines in ways that would alleviate the economic and financial hardships borne by the Filipino people during both the emergency and rehabilitation processes.

On trade and development questions, many speakers, including the representative of Malaysia, Hussein Haniff, expressed hope for an equitable

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result of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Mr. Haniff said there was a "crying need" for trade liberalization, sustained domestic and foreign investment, transfer of resources to developing countries and a supportive international economic environment.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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14 November 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional to cease all offensive operations in El Salvador at midnight, Friday; announcement welcomed by Secretary-General.

- Secretary-General says new Indonesian investigation of violent events in East Timor must be "thorough and credible".

- Social Committee approves draft reaffirming legitimacy of struggle for independence, liberation from apartheid and all forms of foreign domination; drafts on mercenaries and transnational dealings with South Africa are among other approvals.

- General Assembly elects 54 Members of International Law Commission.

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A United Nations spokesman said today that Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar had welcomed the announcement by the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) that it would cease all offensive operations in El Salvador at midnight, Friday.

The Secretary-General had been given advance notice of the FMLN's intention by his Representative, Alvaro de Soto, who is in Mexico City participating in talks between the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN. Mr. de Soto had also passed the information on yesterday to President Christiani of El Salvador who reacted positively.

The spokesman said the initiative would provide a needed boost in confidence in the negotiating process which was about to end. Important points still remained to be negotiated, he said, but the Secretary-General was encouraged at the new developments. If the attitude of the principals was translated into genuine restraint on the ground, it could well mark the beginning of the end of the long conflict, he said.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was encouraged by the progress in the negotiations, and he hoped that before too long, perhaps as early as the end of next week,

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talks on cease-fire modalities, with the participation of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding could begin in earnest.

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The Secretary-General said today that a new investigation of Tuesday's violent events in Dili, East Timor, to be conducted by the Indonesian Government, must be "thorough and credible".

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's Spokesman told correspondents today that the Secretary-General had seen press reports from Jakarta indicating that the Indonesian authorities intended to hold such a new investigation.

He said the Special Rapporteur on Torture of the Commission of Human Rights, who is currently in Jakarta, had indicated that even though he was not an eyewitness to the events in Dili, he would report to the Secretary-General on information that had come to his attention. In the meantime, the spokesman said, the Special Rapporteur had conveyed his concern to the authorities in Jakarta and asked them to ensure that the physical integrity of those taken into custody by the Indonesian authorities was preserved -- a request which the authorities had agreed to honour.

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The General Assembly would reaffirm the legitimacy of peoples' struggle for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination, apartheid and foreign occupation in all its forms, under the terms of one of six draft resolutions approved yesterday by the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

By that text on self-determination, independence and human rights, the Assembly would reiterate that peace in South Africa could be guaranteed only by the establishment of majority rule through the full and free exercise of adult suffrage by all the people in a united and undivided country. It would also call on Israel to refrain from constant deliberate violation of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

By another text, Member States whose transnational corporations continued to do business with South Africa would be called upon to take steps to terminate those dealings.

Other texts concerned the use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights, the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, realization of the right to self-determination and the International Literacy Year, respectively.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning elected 34 members to the International Law Commission for five-year terms beginning 1 January 1992, to fill vacancies

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by members whose term of office will expire at the end of 1991. The Commission was established by the Assembly on 21 November 1947 for the promotion of the progressive development of international law and its codification. Members of the Commission were elected from a list of 49 candidates nominated by the Governments of Member States.

Shortly before the vote, Boutros Boutros Ghali (Egypt) withdrew, leaving 48 candidates for the 34 vacancies.

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United Nations

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Envoy Cyrus Vance to go on third mission to Yugoslavia, tomorrow.

- Secretary-General reports that United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia is now operational.

- First shipment of highly enriched uranium from Iraq removed under supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations Special Commission.

- Special Political Committee is told that apartheid is "alive and well" despite some "positive" changes in South Africa.

- Iraq states in Social Committee that embargo against it flagrantly violates all human rights instruments.

- Special Rapporteur of Commission on Human Rights urges that comprehensive political solution to Afghan conflict be placed in framework of respect for human rights.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said this morning that he was in constant contact with all the parties to the Yugoslav conflict through his Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance.

It was announced later today that Mr. Vance was leaving New York tomorrow to go on a third mission to Yugoslavia.

In a related development, the Secretary-General's Spokesman today dismissed press reports indicating that a boat of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on its way to Dubrovnik had been shelled. He said his office had been informed by UNICEF that the reports were false.

According to UNICEF, he said, the Yugoslav Navy had carried out customary routine firing across the bows of the vessel. The UNICEF ship had

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communicated by radio with the Naval vessel, explained its mission and proceeded to Dubrovnik. It was later announced that the ship had safely reached Dubrovnik.

In a separate development, the Security Council met informally this afternoon to consider the situation in Yugoslavia.

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The Secretary-General has reported that the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) is now operational.

In a report to the Security Council yesterday, the Secretary-General said that the Chief Liaison Officer of UNAMIC, A.H.S. Ataul Karin of Bangladesh, accompanied by three military liaison officers, had assumed their duties in Phnom Penh, where a number of civilian support staff members had also arrived. In addition, Brigadier General Michel Loridon of France, who had been appointed Senior Military Liaison Officer, had assumed the command of the military elements of UNAMIC. The air operations unit, contributed by France, had also arrived in Phnom Penh, joining the military communications unit contributed by Australia.

The Secretary-General's report concluded that deployment of the remaining civilian and military personnel would now proceed rapidly and was expected to be completed on schedule by mid-December.

* * *

The first shipment of highly enriched uranium from Iraq was flown out of that country today, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The operation is in compliance with Security Council resolution 687 (1991), setting the conditions for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf conflict.

The Agency reported that a United Nations cargo flight loaded with material from the research reactor at Al Tuwaitha had left Baghdad this morning heading for Moscow, under the supervision of a IAEA team in cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission.

The operation, which was to be completed on Sunday, was arranged through a contact between the Ministry of Atomic Power and Industry of the Soviet Union and the IAEA. The highly enriched uranium would be processed at an appropriate facility in the USSR and then returned to IAEA after isotopic dilution.

The airlift of the remaining quantities of non-irradiated highly enriched uranium is scheduled to be completed this coming Sunday, 17 November, when a second flight is planned.

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Asserting that apartheid was "alive and well", speakers addressing the General Assembly's Special Political Committee yesterday made a plea for sanctions to remain in place until a non-racial and democratic system was established in South Africa.

However, one speaker pointed out that sanctions had led to violence and unemployment among the black majority and then should be lifted.

Among those addressing the Committee, Beatrice Von Roemer of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions said that although she welcomed the repeal of apartheid legislation, she felt that such steps amounted to no more than the "removal of an ugly facade, leaving the basic structure intact".

In his statement, David Ridenour of the National Center for Public Policy Research said South Africa had met the five conditions set by the United Nations in 1989 for the removal of punitive international sanctions. Citing public opinion polls, which showed that a vast majority of blacks oppose sanctions which had also caused a rise in unemployment and violence, he said the Organization should stand by its word and call on all Member countries to lift sanctions.

* * *

In flagrant violation of all human rights instruments, the embargo against Iraq has deprived children of food and medical care, causing malnutrition, disease and effectively condemning them to die, the General Assembly's Social Committee was told yesterday by the representative of Iraq.

Mohammad A. Hussein of Iraq said the United Nations had adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but apparently the children of Iraq did not have the same rights as others.

Among others addressing the Committee, the representative of China, Kening Zhang, referred to a statement made on 12 November by the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Community, that China had failed to submit additional information to the monitoring body of the Convention against torture. That criticism, Mr. Zhang said, was unfair and biased. Torture was banned and was punishable by Chinese law. The crime of torture had not been completely eradicated in China, but that country was exerting maximum efforts to end the practice and fully complied with its treaty obligations.

* * *

The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Felix Ermacora, recommends that the peace process and any political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan be firmly placed within the framework of respect for human rights.

In his interim report to the General Assembly of 5 November, he said the year 1991 was "a year when a new attempt to reach a political solution to the

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conflict could result in an improvement of the human rights situation". He recommended that both the Government of Afghanistan and the opposition forces be equally bound to international human rights instruments. The continuing conflict between the Afghan Government and the armed opposition had resulting in heavy civilian casualties and material losses. Another significant consequence of the conflict, according to the report, was the six million refugees who had fled to neighbouring countries, and many of them were not prepared to return to Afghanistan.

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